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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL

DATE OF INFORMATION: 23 July 1953

INFORMATION REPORT

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

ONI FORM 3820-2 (REV. 12-51)

SERIAL NO.: R-224-53

DATE OF REPORT: 23 July 1953

FROM: U. S. Naval Attache, Rome, Italy

SOURCE: Italian Navy Officers

EVALUATION: B-2

REQUEST NO.:

SUBJECT: Social Conduct of Representatives of Armed Forces of Russia in Rome

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)

Conversation with Italian Armed Forces personnel concerning probable effects and changes in Russian policy coincident to the recent arrest of Beria has brought out the following interesting observation by Italian officers. Russian representatives of the Armed Forces have suddenly made an abrupt change in their conduct and behavior toward the Italian Armed Forces personnel. Whereas previous to Beria's arrest attitudes were cold, reticent and generally almost rude in that Russians avoided persistently engaging in anything but the most official conversations with Italian Officers. Since the incident, the Russian attaches are making deliberate attempts to be friendly and to promote conversation at all times. The Italians have found the change so marked that there was no difficulty in linking the change in attitude with the events surrounding Beria's arrest.

Preparing Officer's Comment:

Forwarded as a possible interesting item in that taken with reports from other sources, an inference may be drawn as to whether Italy is a particular target for friendly overtures or whether the change in attitude is a reflection of an over-all foreign policy change.

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Prepared and Forwarded:

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CAPTAIN USN

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